



School districts race to invest in cooling solutions as classrooms and playgrounds heat up

By ALEXA ST. JOHN and DORANY PINEDA
Associated Press

Ylenia Aguilar raised her two sons in Arizona — first in Tucson and later Phoenix, so they're no strangers to scorching heat. Just recently, Phoenix hit its 100th straight day at or above 100 F (37.8 C), shattering the record set in 1993.

She remembers scary moments "seeing soccer kids and my own children pass out and faint from, you know, heat-related illnesses," she said. "It was seeing my sons dehydrated." Scores of U.S. schoolyards like hers are carpeted in heat-absorbing asphalt, with no shade even for play areas. The buildings were often made with wall and roofing materials that radiated heat into indoor spaces. Kids are also more vulnerable to heat illness than adults. Their bodies have a harder time self-regulating in extreme heat in part because they sweat less, so they can become dehydrated faster. Climate change is heightening the risks. School closures related to heat are becoming more frequent, according to a report by the Center for Climate Integrity and the firm Resilient Analytics.



Ronnie Jefferies paints the parking lot at Science, Arts and Entrepreneurship School to help cool it by making it more reflective, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Mableton, Ga.

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Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

| SUNDAY: | MONDAY: | TUESDAY: | WEDNESDAY: | THURSDAY: | FRIDAY: | SATURDAY: |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm | ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm | JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm | EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm | MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm | RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm | EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm |

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House Republicans push to link government funding to a citizenship check for new voters

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — House Speaker Mike Johnson is heeding the demands of the more conservative wing of his Republican conference and has teed up a vote this week on a bill that would keep the federal government funded for six more months and require states to obtain proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, when registering a person to vote. Congress needs to approve a stop-gap spending bill before the end of the budget year on Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown just a few weeks before voters go the polls and elect the next president.



Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks at the Capitol in Washington, July 23, 2024. Associated Press

bill passed. That fight led just a few days later to eight Republicans joining with Democrats in removing McCarthy from the speaker's job. "As we have said repeatedly, avoiding a government shutdown requires bipartisanship, not a bill drawn up by one party. Speaker Johnson is making the same mistake as former Speaker McCarthy did a year ago, by wasting precious time catering to the hard MAGA right, Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer of New York and Patty Murray of Washington state said in a statement, referring to Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement. "This tactic didn't work last September and it will not work this year either."

They said that if Johnson "drives House Republicans down this highly partisan path, the odds of a shutdown go way up, and Americans will know that the responsibility of a shutdown will be on the House Republicans' hands." Schumer is the Senate's majority leader. Murray leads the Senate Appropriations Committee.

The voter registration measure is popular with House Republicans. The House Freedom Caucus, which generally includes the chamber's most conservative members, called for it to be attached to a stop-gap bill that would keep the government funded into early 2025.

Republicans say that requiring proof of citizenship would ensure U.S. elections are only for American citizens, improving confidence in the nation's federal election system, something that Trump has sought to undermine over the years.

Opponents say it is already against the law for noncitizens to vote in federal elections and that the document requirements would disenfranchise millions of people who do not have the necessary documents readily available when they get a chance to register, say at a concert, county fair or at a college voter registration drive. □

Johnson's decision to combine the proof of citizenship mandate with government funding complicates prospects for getting that task done. The bill is not expected to go anywhere in the Democratic-controlled Senate, if it even makes it that far. But the effort could help Johnson, R-La., next year should House Republicans retain their majority and he seeks to become speaker again. The vote also could give Republicans an issue to go after Democrats in competitive swing districts as Republicans make immigration-related matters a campaign cornerstone. "Today, House Republicans are taking a critically important step to keep the federal government funded and to secure our federal election process," Johnson said Friday. "Congress has a responsibility to do both, and we must ensure that only American citizens can decide American elections." Democrats will oppose the GOP effort overwhelmingly and warn that any continuing resolution must have buy-in from both political parties. They said Johnson was making the same mistake then-Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., did a year ago as he tried to placate conservatives. In the end, they rejected his efforts, forcing him to rely on Democrats to get a temporary spending

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School districts race to invest in cooling solutions as classrooms and playgrounds heat up

Continued from Front

There is also accumulating data on temperature inequality and the effects of heat. Low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, which describes Aguilar's, can be as much as 7 F (3.9 C) hotter than richer and whiter neighborhoods, leaving students and educators to swelter in a warming world. Extreme temperatures also affect learning, performance and concentration. Yet there are well-known ways to cool down schools and neighborhoods. "When the solutions are so at hand and readily available," said Joe Allen, associate professor and director of the Healthy Buildings program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, these conditions are "unacceptable." In Phoenix, Aguilar became a leader, joining the school board and helping to pass a \$50 million bond that funded a number of solutions in her Osborn Elementary School District.

Other schools like Aguilar's are also starting to spend on these fixes.

Cool ground surfaces

On a hot day in 2022, students at a school near Atlanta pointed thermometers onto their basketball court and got a reading of 105 F (about 40.5 C).

A roofing manufacturer donated a bright blue, solar-reflective coating and helped them paint it on. They took another reading, this time it was 95 F (35 C).

As students of the private school learned, paved surfaces get really hot in the sun. They absorb solar energy and slowly re-radiate it out as heat, increasing air temperatures by as much as 7 F (3.9 C).

Cooling playgrounds and roads by making them more reflective is not new, but interest has been growing along with more understanding of the way the accumulation can affect entire neighborhoods, known as urban heat islands, said Daniel Metzger, a fellow at Columbia Law School who studies these passive climate



Ronnie Jefferies works on the parking lot at Science, Arts and Entrepreneurship School where it is being repainted to help cool it by making it more reflective, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Mableton, Ga.

Associated Press

adaptation technologies.

"And as climate change gets worse... I think adaptation measures like this are only going to become more and more important," he said.

Workers recently rolled that same cool surface on the parking lot at the Science, Arts and Entrepreneurship School as part of the school's sustainability goals and efforts to minimize heat. Both times, the roofing manufacturer GAF donated the coatings and labor. Without that, the school would have had to raise funds, said Scott Starowicz, the school's co-founder and chief financial officer.

With the new, cool surfaces, Starowicz said he feels "like we're doing our part" to mitigate heat.

Cool roofs and window films East of Los Angeles, roofs across the Chaffey Joint Union High School District used to reach 140 F (60 C), officials said. Hot roofs can make upper-floor classrooms unbearable.

This affected a lot of kids. Chaffey is the second-largest high school district in California with 24,000 students. Nearly 65% are Latino or Hispanic.

Chaffey has now spent \$11.4 million in bond money and maintenance funds to convert asphalt shingle roofs to white cool roofing since

2017 — part of district-wide conservation and sustainability efforts. It's important as California heats up; this past July was its hottest on record.

These roofs — as well as window films, paints and other technologies — reflect a portion of the incoming solar radiation away from a building, rather than allowing it to transfer into the building as heat. These are some of the easiest and least costly actions a district can take. Experts agree cool roofing does bring down the indoor temperature and reduce the need for AC. Chaffey's roofs now sit at around 90 F (32 C). The district has also invested in steel shade structures, trees and thermometers that consider things like temperature and humidity to monitor heat stress. "There's a high level of urgency," said Rick Wiersma, assistant superintendent of business services.

Cooler, greener schoolyards On hot days in Berkeley, Calif., Sharon Gamson Danks remembers seeing her kids and their peers sitting in slivers of shade along the edges of their school building. They'd huddle under play structures, too.

"When they're outside, they're kind of getting overheated from two directions, both from direct sun exposure but also from really hot surfaces,"

said V. Kelly Turner, an associate professor at UCLA.

Now more schools are tearing out hot asphalt or turf or rubber mats in favor of green schoolyards, which can include grass, gardens, mulch and trees. Between 2022 and 2023, California alone granted more than \$121 million for these efforts. Experts say trees are one of the best ways to cool things down — they lower air and surface temperatures, and research has found that shade from trees alone can reduce the heat children experience by as much as 70 F (21 C).

At Parkway Elementary in Sacramento, a city that has led the urban tree planting movement for years, about 50 heat and drought-tolerant trees — including coast live oaks, Chinese elms and ginkgos — replaced an old, rusty backstop and one of three underused, turf soccer fields this summer thanks to a \$400,000 grant. The project is part of a California schoolyard forests effort to increase tree canopy in public schools, especially in underserved communities. Chamberlain Segrest, environmental sustainability manager at Sacramento City Unified School District, said the trees will take years to mature, but "we want to think more long term about what our students and fami-

lies need, and so planting these trees, even though it's going to take time for them to mature and provide the full host of benefits, there's a slew of benefits they provide immediately."

Paying for the needed changes

For the hottest schools, these solutions are often out of reach.

The Department of Energy offers Renew America's Schools grants and the Environmental Protection Agency has the Climate Resilient Schools program, for example, but they often don't cover the full costs, and schools sometimes don't have the staff to apply for and manage grants. Increased maintenance costs are also a concern.

Relying on grant money "can completely exacerbate the haves and the have-nots" when it comes to reducing climate change and adapting to its harms, said UCLA's Turner, "because it's going to be the schools that have more resources" that can go after these grants.

Many believe schools shouldn't be left on their own. Each of these individual solutions makes a difference, said Greg Kats, founder of the Smart Surfaces Coalition. But combining efforts with a local government or neighborhood means "you can add about ten degrees of comfort to a school, which means that the kids can be outside playing. It means that the windows can be open. It means you don't have the loud grinding of an air conditioning," he said. "It's just sort of integration, right, of different strategies over a larger geographic area," he added. "You're really sort of transforming the school environment."

In Phoenix, Aguilar's efforts improved the district's air conditioning and installed shading structures at playgrounds, bus stops and courtyards. The work is ongoing; Osborn district recently got the money to plant 100 more trees and add more shade. "I think for me, that was like, it's only going to get hotter," Aguilar said of her experience. "I knew that we needed to take action." □

U.S. believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia, AP sources say

By **AAMER MADHANI** and **ZEKE MILLER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has informed allies that it believes Iran has transferred short-range ballistic missiles to Russia for its war in Ukraine, according to two people familiar with the matter.

They did not offer any details about how many weapons have been delivered or when the transfers may have occurred, but they confirmed the U.S. intelligence finding.

They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss a matter that has not been publicly disclosed.

The White House declined to confirm the weapons transfer but reiterated its concern that Iran is deepening its support of Russia. The White House has been warning Iran for months not to transfer ballistic missiles to Russia.

"Any transfer of Iranian ballistic missiles to Russia would represent a dramatic escalation in Iran's support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and lead to the killing of more Ukrainian civilians," National Security Council spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement. "This partnership threatens European security and illustrates how Iran's destabilizing influence reaches beyond the Middle East and around the world."

The U.S. finding comes as



In this photo released by the Iranian semi-official Fars News Agency, Revolutionary Guard's Fateh missile is launched in a drill near the city of Qom, 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of the capital Tehran, Iran, Sept. 27, 2009.

Associated Press

the Kremlin tries to repel Ukraine's surprise offensive that has led to the seizure of about 500 square miles (1,300 kilometers) of Russia's Kursk region. Meanwhile, Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, is pressing allies to allow his country to use Western-supplied missiles to strike deep inside Russia and hit sites from which Moscow launches aerial attacks. Iran, as it has with previous U.S. intelligence findings, denied providing Russia with weapons for its war in Ukraine.

"Iran considers the provision of military assistance to the parties engaged in the conflict — which leads to in-

creased human casualties, destruction of infrastructure, and a distancing from ceasefire negotiations — to be inhumane," according to a statement from Iran's mission to the United Nations. "Thus, not only does Iran abstain from engaging in such actions itself, but it also calls upon other countries to cease the supply of weapons to the sides involved in the conflict."

CIA Director William Burns, who was in London on Saturday for a joint appearance with his British intelligence counterpart, warned of the growing and "troubling" defense relationship involving Russia, China, Iran and North

Korea that he said threatens both Ukraine and Western allies in the Middle East.

The White House has repeatedly declassified and publicized intelligence findings that show North Korea has sent ammunition and missiles to Russia to use against Ukraine, while Iran supplies Moscow with attack drones and has assisted the Kremlin with building a drone-manufacturing factory.

China has held back from providing Russians with weaponry but has surged sales to Russia of machine tools, microelectronics and other technology that Moscow in turn is using to produce missiles, tanks, aircraft

and other weaponry, according to U.S. officials.

The White House has been on edge for months about a possible deal between Iran and Russia.

The Democratic administration said in January that U.S. intelligence officials had determined a Russian-Iran deal had not been completed, but officials were concerned that Russia's negotiations to acquire missiles from Iran were actively advancing. Last September, according to the White House, Iran hosted a top Russian defense official to show off a range of ballistic missile systems, adding to the U.S. concern that a deal could come together.

The U.S. and other countries have taken steps aimed at thwarting the supply, sale or transfer involving Iran and ballistic missile-related items, including issuing guidance to private companies about Iranian missile procurement practices to make sure those companies are not inadvertently supporting Iran's development efforts.

President Joe Biden is set to host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer for talks at the White House on Friday. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said "continuing robust support to Ukraine in its defense against Russian aggression" will be on their agenda.

The Wall Street Journal first reported on the U.S. intelligence finding. □



A burned landscape is left behind by the Line Fire, Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024, in Running Springs, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) — Tens of thousands of homes and buildings were threatened Sunday by an out-of-control wildfire burn-

ing in the foothills of a national forest east of Los Angeles, amid a days-long heat wave that pushed temperatures into the triple digits across

Wildfire east of L.A. threatens tens of thousands of homes and forces evacuations

the region.

State firefighters said three firefighters had been injured and more than 35,000 structures were threatened, including single and multi-family homes and commercial buildings, while authorities issued evacuation orders for several areas. Thunderstorms expected later in the day could make conditions even more challenging.

The so-called Line Fire was burning along the edge of the San Bernardino Na-

tional Forest, about 65 miles (105 kilometers) east of LA. As of Sunday morning, the blaze had charred about 27 square miles (70 square kilometers) of grass and chaparral, leaving a thick cloud of dark smoke blanketing the area.

"Afternoon thunderstorms could cause new ignitions and potentially influence activity around the fire perimeter," state firefighters said in a Sunday morning update. "Hot and dry conditions

mixed with thunderstorms are expected to challenge firefighters for the next few days."

County officials, who declared an emergency Saturday evening, issued evacuation orders for Running Springs, Arrowbear Lake, areas east of Highway 330 and other regions.

"Extreme temperatures, wind and lightning strikes have allowed the fire to grow rapidly," the county said in a statement. □

Shooting attack at the West Bank-Jordan border crossing kills 3 Israelis

By MAHMOUD ILLEAN and
NATALIE MELZER

Associated Press

ALLENBY CROSSING, West Bank (AP) — Three Israelis were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza. Israel's military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed him in a shootout. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said the three Israelis were men in their 50s and the military said they were civilians.

Relatives identified the gunman as Maher al-Jazi, a retired Jordanian soldier from Athroh, a town in the impoverished Maan area. Jordan's state-run Petra News Agency said he was transporting goods to the West Bank. The interior ministry said that, based on initial investigation results, the incident was an individual act.

Jordan was investigating. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994 but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza.

Hundreds of Jordanians marched in Amman to celebrate the attack, chanting



Israeli police stand guard near the site of a deadly shooting attack where Israeli officials say three people were shot and killed at the Allenby Bridge Crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024.

slogans in support of al-Jazi and burning the Israeli flag. "We bless this heroic operation carried out by this noble Jordanian hero," said Murad Adaileh, head of the local Muslim Brotherhood Party.

The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is mainly used by Palestinians and tourists. The crossing has seen few security incidents, but in 2014 Israeli security guards shot and killed a Jordanian judge who they said had attacked them.

The crossing was closed, and Israel announced the closure of its land crossings with Jordan. It later said all

would reopen on Monday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and linked it to Israel's larger conflict with Iran and allied militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack out of Gaza triggered the war there. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has been a rise in Israeli settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

Loved ones mourned Ay-senur Ezgi Eygi, an Amer-

ican-Turkish woman shot dead on Friday in the West Bank. She had been demonstrating against Israeli settlements. The White House has said it was "deeply disturbed," while her family seeks an independent investigation. Her body remained at a hospital in Nablus.

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil Defense — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. The Civil Defense said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for northern Gaza, Mohamed Morsi, in the urban Ja-

baliya refugee camp.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The army says it tries to avoid harming civilians and only targets militants.

Another Israeli strike hit the Eid family home in the Nuseirat refugee camp and killed at least two girls, according to an Associated Press journalist who counted the bodies and witnesses.

Paltel, one of the territory's main telecom providers, said all household internet in central and southern Gaza was down because of ongoing attacks.

Gaza's Health Ministry says over 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since the war began. It does not differentiate between fighters and civilians in its count. The war has caused vast destruction and displaced around 90% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million, often multiple times. Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in their Oct. 7 attack. They abducted another 250 and are still holding around 100 after releasing most of the rest in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel during a weeklong cease-fire last November. Around a third of the remaining hostages are believed to be dead.

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have spent months trying to broker a cease-fire and the return of the hostages, but the negotiations have repeatedly bogged down. □

Associated Press

Vaccinations against mpox in Congo will begin next month, authorities say

By JEAN-YVES KAMALE

Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) —

A vaccination campaign against mpox in Congo will begin Oct. 2, authorities said Saturday, with workers focusing on the three most affected provinces first.

Adults in Equateur, South Kivu and Sankuru provinces will be vaccinated first, Cris Kacita Osako, coordinator of Congo's Monkeypox Response Committee, told The Associated Press.

Earlier this week, the first

batch of mpox vaccines arrived in the capital of Congo, the center of the outbreak. The 100,000 doses of the JYNNEOS vaccine, manufactured by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, were donated by the European Union through HERA, the bloc's agency for health emergencies. Another 100,000 were delivered on Saturday.

The 200,000 doses are just a fraction of the 3 million doses authorities have said are needed to end the

mpox outbreaks in Congo, the epicenter of the global health emergency. The European Union countries pledged to donate more than 500,000 others, but the timeline for their delivery remained unclear.

Since the start of 2024, there have been 5,549 confirmed mpox cases across the continent, with 643 associated deaths, representing a sharp escalation in both infections and fatalities compared to previous years. The cases in Congo



Officials check Mpox vaccine MVA-BN vaccine, manufactured by the Danish company Bavarian Nordic, at the airport in Kinshasa, Congo, Sept. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

constituted 91% of the total number. Most mpox infections in Congo and Burundi,

the second most affected country, are in children under age 15. □

Proposed resolution asks U.N. to plan for U.N. peacekeepers to replace Kenya-led police mission in Haiti

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and Ecuador circulated a draft resolution on Friday asking the United Nations to begin planning for a U.N. peacekeeping operation to replace the Kenya-led mission now in the Caribbean nation helping police to quell gang violence. The proposed Security Council resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, says U.N. peacekeepers are needed "in order to sustain the gains" made by the U.N.-backed multinational mission which has seen almost 400 Kenyan police deploy since June to help the Haitian National Police.

The circulation of the short resolution to all 15 council members follows U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Haiti on Thursday where he reaffirmed the U.S. government's commitment to the multinational mission and pushed for long-awaited general elections. America's top diplomat also said a U.N. peacekeeping force was an option to address a funding crisis for the Kenya-led mission, which depends on voluntary contributions. The U.S. and Canada have provided the bulk of funds so far. Peacekeeping operations, by contrast, are funded from a special U.N. budget.



Kenyan police officers, part of a UN-backed multinational force, drive past residents in armored vehicles on the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

Associated Press

The United Nations has been involved in Haiti on and off since 1990.

A 2004 rebellion had the country on the brink of collapse, leading to deployment of a U.N. force. It helped stabilize the impoverished nation after successful elections and a devastating 2010 earthquake that killed as many as 300,000 people and ended in October 2017. But U.N. peacekeepers left under a cloud, with troops from Nepal widely blamed for introducing cholera that has killed about 10,000 people in Haiti since 2010 and

other troops implicated in sexual abuse, including rape and the targeting hungry children.

Since 2017, the U.N. has had a series of small missions in Haiti. The latest, political mission, BINUH, has a mandate to advance a Haitian-led political process toward elections, the rule of law and human rights.

Many Haitians have rejected the proposal of another peacekeeping operation, given the introduction of cholera and sexual abuse cases that occurred when U.N. troops were last in Haiti.

Some Haitians also see U.N. peacekeepers as an occupying force.

Haiti asked for an international force to combat gangs in 2022, and U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres appealed for months for a country to lead the force before the Kenyans came forward and pledged 1,000 police. They are expected to be joined by police from the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Chad and Jamaica, bringing the multinational force to 2,500 personnel.

They would be deployed

in phases that would cost roughly \$600 million a year. Currently, the U.N. has \$85 million in pledges for the mission, out of which \$68 million has been received.

The gangs have grown in power since the July 7, 2021, assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and are now estimated to control up to 80% of the capital. The surge in killings, rapes and kidnappings has led to a violent uprising by civilian vigilante groups.

In February, gangs launched coordinated attacks on police stations and the main international airport, which remained closed for nearly three months. They also stormed Haiti's two largest prisons, releasing more than 4,000 inmates.

The violence subsided somewhat before the first contingent of Kenyan police arrived in late June, with Blinken noting that economic activity has restarted in some areas of Port-au-Prince, and that joint operations have led to successes including regaining control of Haiti's biggest public hospital.

However, gangs continue to attack communities surrounding Port-au-Prince.

The draft resolution would determine that "the situation in Haiti continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security and to stability in the region." □



A golden chanterelle mushroom, shown here in Stockholm, Sweden, on July 31, 2021.

Associated Press

By **JAN M. OLSEN and STEFANIE DAZIO**

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Sweden's strong foraging culture could help

determine how much radioactive fallout remains in the Scandinavian country 38 years after the Chernobyl nuclear explosion.

The Swedish Radiation

Mushrooms foraged in Sweden could help research Chernobyl fallout

Safety Authority has asked mushroom-pickers to send samples of this season's harvest for testing. The goal of the measurement project is to map the levels of Cesium-137 in mushrooms, which can absorb the isotope from soil, and see how much remains after the April 26, 1986 disaster at the Soviet nuclear power plant in what is now Ukraine.

Cesium, the key radioactive material released in the fallout, has a half-life of some 30 years. It can build up in the body, and high levels are thought to be a

risk.

The radiation watchdog is counting on the foraging lifestyle in Sweden, which is covered by more than 60% of forest, to aid its research. In late summer, many Swedes spend days in the woods collecting berries, mushrooms and plants.

It's asking foragers where they found their bounty — though they don't have to disclose the exact whereabouts of the prized golden chanterelle mushroom. Spots that regularly produce such chanterelles — often called "the gold

of the forest mushroom" — are closely guarded family secrets that could cause headaches for researchers who need data points.

"It doesn't have to be the exact location of the most secret chanterelle spot," said Pål Andersson, an investigator at the Radiation Safety Authority.

Mushroom-pickers are instructed to send in double-bagged edible fungi — at least 100 grams (3.53 ounces) of fresh mushrooms, or 20 grams (0.71 ounces) of dried mushrooms — picked in 2024. □

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Joe wrote to us saying: "Aruba means to me Family"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

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Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under

the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



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Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many

ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort

and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower. The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren,

Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

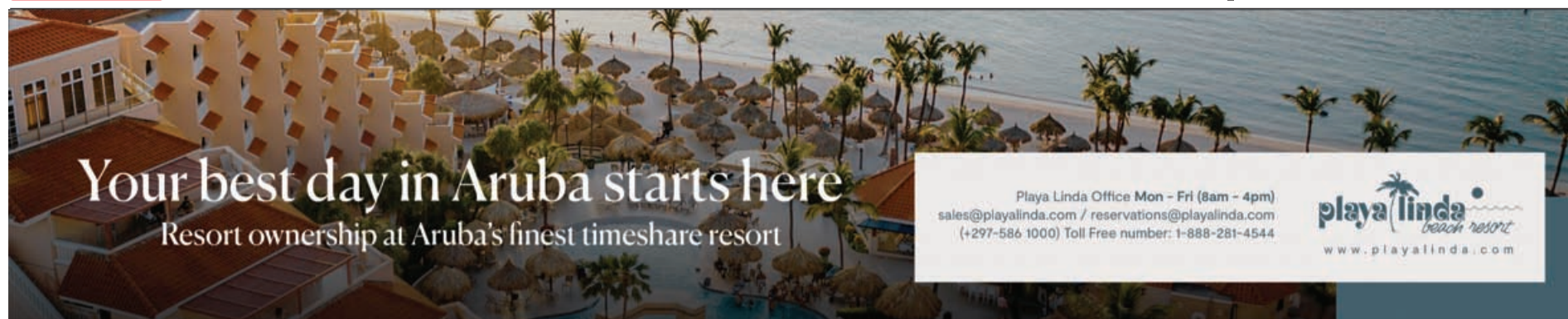
Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation

in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.





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Playa Linda provides poolside outing for 'Ambiente Feliz'

PALM BEACH – Playa Linda Beach Resort recently opened its doors to the residents and clients of "Stichting Ambiente Feliz" for a morning of poolside fun. "Ambiente Feliz" is a foundation that works within the community, providing essential support and services to people with intellectual or multiple disabilities. The outing was planned as part of their summer program, with Playa Linda welcoming participants and treating them to time at the Resort.

The fun got off to an early start, with the group arriving at 8:30 and fueling up on a delicious breakfast donated by Scotts Brats, an on-property restaurant, facing beautiful Palm Beach, and famous for its scrumptious sausage sandwiches. After a hearty meal, it was time to relax poolside with Playa Linda providing chickees and towels to keep par-



ticipants cool and dry after some time in the pool. The morning wrapped up with a warm farewell and goodie bags passed out to all participants.

Playa Linda, which has always taken its dedication to hospitality to the highest levels, welcomes its members and guests to the Resort as if they are family, and, similarly, keeps close ties to the greater Aruba community. The Resort has a long history

of working with different, invaluable Aruba non-profits. Hosting the recent visit was one example of Playa Linda's ongoing efforts and emphasis on giving back to the community.

"Ambiente Feliz" is an especially important NGO. It runs two residential homes – 'Cas Curason' and 'Cas Briyante' – as well as spearheads programs that focus on developing life skills, offer meaningful daily and lei-



sure activities, establish and maintain social contacts and provide a regular round of educational, sporting and social events. The recent visit to Playa Linda was part of a larger summer activity program.

Playa Linda Beach Resort Aruba sits beachside on world famous Palm Beach, and at the center of the island's best selection of dining, shopping and activity options. It features 217 spa-



cious suites – with twelve different suite categories, each with fully-equipped kitchens – and offers resort amenities including on-property laundry facilities, two pools, two Jacuzzis, concierge services, daily activity program and varied dining and shopping options. This intimate, community-centered resort creates an opportunity for memorable vacation experiences, and why your best day in Aruba starts at the Playa Linda. □

Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent

rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of the Pos Chiquito city. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach in the hotel area Yet another highly popular beach site, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it

may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.

Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □



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Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 40 The Jetsons' dog
- 6 How some stocks are sold
- 11 In harmony
- 12 Esther of TV
- 13 Hawks and doves
- 14 List of candidates
- 15 Torah cabinet
- 16 Like some '60s fashions
- 18 Minor complaint
- 19 — Salvador
- 20 Attempt
- 21 Tennis great Arthur
- 23 Course at Eton
- 25 Scrollwork shape
- 27 Tall tale
- 28 Showy flower
- 30 Petty argument
- 33 Jeans feature
- 34 Hwys.
- 36 Mine matter
- 37 Kodak founder
- 39 Negative link

DOWN

- 1 Beach tent
- 2 God of the dead
- 3 Use rules to one's advantage
- 4 Purpose
- 5 Takes a breather
- 6 Weapons store
- 7 Related
- 8 Bet on a race
- 9 Changes
- 10 Slender
- 17 Des-cartes's conclusion
- 22 Superlative suffix
- 24 "— folly to be wise"
- 26 Sunday talks
- 28 1867 purchase
- 29 Nutrition label abbr.
- 31 Stir up
- 32 Designated
- 33 Banquet
- 35 Sleep sound
- 38 Stumble
- 42 Pod unit

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Yesterday's answer

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AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

MTUNHT APQONDOG RW
WTUOM, RM RW ARVVPZ
KRMT VUMW UA VUYP DXZ
WKPPM WNOJORWPW.

— BTDOSDRXP E. AUOZP

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WELL, I KNOW NOW. I KNOW A LITTLE MORE HOW MUCH A SIMPLE THING LIKE A SNOWFALL CAN MEAN TO A PERSON. — SYLVIA PLATH

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | |
|-----|----|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| TUE | 03 | ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON | 08.00 09.00 | 20.00 22.00 | B C | 1 1 |
| WED | 04 | RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS | 09.00 | 21.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 10 | CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA | 08.00 08.00 13.00 | 21.00 22.00 23.00 | B C I | 1 1 1 |
| TUE | 17 | CARNIVAL HORIZON | 08.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 24 | CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC | 08.00 09.00 | 21.00 22.00 | B C | 1 1 |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Just how rare is a rare-colored lobster? Scientists say answer could be under the shell



Blue and two-toned lobsters are seen in a marine sciences lab at the University of New England, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024, in Biddeford, Maine.

Associated Press

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

BIDDEFORD, Maine (AP) —

Orange, blue, calico, two-toned and ... cotton-candy colored?

Those are all the hues of lobsters that have showed up in fishers' traps, supermarket seafood tanks and scientists' laboratories over the last year. The funky-colored crustaceans inspire headlines that trumpet their rarity, with particularly uncommon baby blue-tinted critters described by some as "cotton-candy colored" often estimated at 1 in 100 million.

A recent wave of these curious colored lobsters in Maine, New York, Colorado and beyond has scientists asking just how atypical the discolored arthropods really are. As is often the case in science, it's complicated. Lobsters' color can vary due to genetic and dietary differences, and estimates about how rare certain colors are should be taken with a grain of salt, said Andrew Goode, lead administrative scientist for the American Lobster Settlement Index at the University of Maine. There is also no definitive source on the occurrence of lobster coloration abnormalities, scientists said.

"Anecdotal, they don't taste any different either," Goode said.

In the wild, lobsters typically have a mottled brown appearance, and they turn an orange-red color after they are boiled for eating. Lobsters can have color ab-

normalities due to mutation of genes that affect the proteins that bind to their shell pigments, Goode said.

The best available estimates about lobster coloration abnormalities are based on data from fisheries sources, said marine sciences professor Markus Frederich of the University of New England in Maine. However, he said, "no one really tracks them." Frederich and other scientists said that commonly cited estimates such as 1 in 1 million for blue lobsters and 1 in 30 million for orange lobsters should not be treated as rock-solid figures. However, he and his students are working to change that.

Frederich is working on non-invasive ways to extract genetic samples from lobsters to try to better understand

the molecular basis for rare shell coloration. Frederich maintains a collection of strange-colored lobsters at the university's labs and has been documenting the progress of the offspring of an orange lobster named Peaches who is housed at the university.

Peaches had thousands of offspring this year, which is typical for lobsters. About half were orange, which is not, Frederich said. Of the baby lobsters that survived, a slight majority were regular colored ones, Frederich said. Studying the DNA of atypically colored lobsters will give scientists a better understanding of their underlying genetics, Frederich said. "Lobsters are those iconic animals here in Maine, and I find them beautiful. Especially when you see those rare ones, which are just looking spectacular. And then the scientist in me simply says I want to know how that works. What's the mechanism?" Frederich said. He does eat lobster but "never any of those colorful ones," he said.

One of Frederich's lobsters, Tamarind, is the typical color on one side and orange on the other. That is because two lobster eggs fused and grew as one animal, Frederich said. He said that's thought to be as rare as 1 in 50 million.

Rare lobsters have been in

the news lately, with an orange lobster turning up in a Long Island, New York, Stop & Shop last month, and another appearing in a shipment being delivered to a Red Lobster in Colorado in July.

The odd-looking lobsters will likely continue to come to shore because of the size of the U.S. lobster fishery, said Richard Wahle, a longtime University of Maine lobster researcher who is now retired. U.S. fishers have brought more than 90 million pounds (40,820 metric tons) of lobster to the docks in every year since 2009 after only previously reaching that volume twice, according to federal records that go back to 1950.

"In an annual catch consisting of hundreds of millions of lobster, it shouldn't be surprising that we see a few of the weird ones every year, even if they are 1 in a million or 1 in 30 million," Wahle said. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel. 524 8833

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Eagle : Tel. 587 9011

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Jannik Sinner beats Taylor Fritz in the US Open men's final weeks after doping exoneration

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jannik Sinner beat Taylor Fritz 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 with a relentless baseline game to win the U.S. Open men's championship on Sunday, less than three weeks after being exonerated in a doping case. The No. 1-ranked Sinner, a 23-year-old from Italy, won the second Grand Slam trophy of his nascent career — the other was at the Australian Open in January — and prevented No. 12 Fritz from ending a major title drought for American men that has lasted 21 years.

Andy Roddick's triumph at Flushing Meadows in 2003 was the last Slam title for a man from the United States. The last before Fritz, a 26-year-old from California, to even contest a final at one of the four biggest tournaments in tennis also was Roddick, who lost to Roger Federer at Wimbledon in 2009.

Sinner extended his current winning streak to 11 matches and improved to 55-5 with a tour-high six titles in 2024. That includes a 35-2 mark on hard courts, the surface used at both the Australian Open and U.S. Open, and he is the first man since Guillermo Vilas in 1977 to win his first two Grand Slam trophies in the same season, something such greats as Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Federer never accom-



Jannik Sinner, of Italy, reacts after defeating Taylor Fritz, of the United States, to win the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in New York.

Associated Press

plished.

Less than a week before competition began at Flushing Meadows, the world found out that Sinner had tested positive twice for anabolic steroids in March but was cleared because his use was ruled unintentional — the banned substance entered his system via a massage from a team member he later fired.

As expected, Fritz enjoyed something of a home-court advantage on a cool afternoon under a nearly cloudless sky. In a celebrity-filled crowd that included Taylor Swift and her boyfriend, Kansas City Chiefs tight

end Travis Kelce, some spectators occasionally engaged in chants of "U-S-A!" between games or rose to their feet whenever he managed to pick up what felt in the moment like a crucial point.

Fritz is not the sort to show much in the way of emotion, often greeting those instances with a little shake of his neon-colored racket. When he was broken in the match's first game, an inauspicious start that included a bad miss of a smash, Fritz grinned sarcastically. Sinner showed some jitters, too, and when he played a loose game that included a double-fault and other

misses, that helped Fritz break back to eventually lead 3-2 after 20 minutes. That was pretty much the last significant highlight for Fritz or his fans until 3-all in the third set, when he smacked an overhead winner to get to 15-30, punched the air and screamed, "Let's go!" People in the stands rose, applauding and shouting. After Fritz deposited a volley winner to earn a break point a minute later, he celebrated in the same fashion, and thousands around him went wild. Sinner then double-faulted, putting Fritz in front 4-3.

But when he tried to serve out the set at 5-4, Fritz

buckled enough to let Sinner pull even by breaking. Sinner used a drop shot to lure Fritz to the front court, then slid a passing shot that Fritz volleyed into the net. Fritz bounced off his racket off the court. Sinner loped to the towel box, not even smiling.

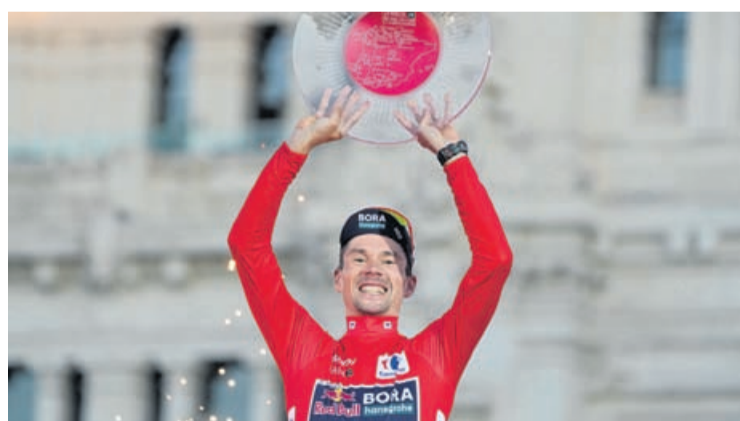
About 10 minutes later, the victory was Sinner's thanks to a closing four-game run. When it was over, Sinner raised his arms, threw his head back and closed his eyes.

He generally asserts himself during matches in what perhaps is best described as a rather casual way. His style is less spectacular than solid, less magical than metronomic. Either way, it was masterful, using his long limbs and squeaking, sliding sneakers to get to everything before aiming high-speed shot after shot right near lines — and usually succeeding.

Neither player seemed all that interested in venturing forward Sunday unless forced to, instead content to ply their forehands and backhands from the back of the court.

That's decidedly Sinner's territory.

By the end, Sinner, the second Italian to win a singles title at the U.S. Open, joining 2015 women's champion Flavia Pennetta, had an impressive ledger: just 21 unforced errors, 13 fewer than Fritz, and 23 winners. □



Primož Roglic of Slovenia lifts the trophy after winning La Vuelta cycling race during the last stage in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

By **TALES AZZONI**

AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Primož Roglic won a record-equaling

fourth Spanish Vuelta title after successfully protecting his lead in the final individual time trial on Sunday.

Roglic protects lead on final day to win Spanish Vuelta for a record-equaling 4th time

Roglic finished the 24.6-kilometer (15.3-mile) time trial without any scares, and his overall lead of more than two minutes was never in jeopardy. He ended cycling's final Grand Tour of the year 2 minutes, 36 seconds ahead of Australia's Ben O'Connor, who led for nearly two weeks. Enric Mas finished third overall, more than three minutes off the lead.

"I wanted to finish it off. It was tough but everything went fine and I'm happy," Roglic said. "It's a lot of sacrifice.

It's not only me. My family, everyone around, we all sacrifice dearly for this. I just feel happy that I can do it. I really appreciate the support that I get."

Roglic was second in the final time trial Sunday, ending 31 seconds behind stage winner Stefan Küng of Switzerland. Roglic matched the record of four titles won by Spanish rider Roberto Heras in 2000 and 2003-05. The Slovenian rider's other victories came from 2019-21.

Another Slovenian, Tadej Po-

gacar, had won the other Grand Tour races this year — the Tour de France and Giro d'Italia.

It was Roglic's first Vuelta triumph since switching from team Jumbo Visma to Red Bull Bora Hansgrohe.

Roglic, a Tokyo Olympic gold medalist in the individual time trial, got off to a slow start this year but gradually cut into the lead of O'Connor. Roglic finally took the leader's red jersey on Friday after a couple of strong runs on difficult climbing stages. □

Fields steps in for Wilson, Boswell boots 6 field goals to lead Steelers past Falcons 18-10

By PAUL NEWBERRY

AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — With all eyes on the quarterbacks, Chris Boswell's strong right leg stole the spotlight in the season opener.

Boswell booted six field goals, three of them longer than 50 yards, to account for all of Pittsburgh's scoring as Justin Fields and the Steelers grinded out an 18-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday.

Fields stepped in after Russell Wilson's debut with the Steelers was put on hold by a calf injury — getting a big assist from Boswell and a defense that made life miserable for Kirk Cousins in his first game as Atlanta's quarterback.

"Just having a weapon like him on the offensive side of the ball, we only have to get the ball to the 40," Fields said of Boswell. "It makes our job way easier." Boswell connected from 57, 56, 51, 44, 40 and 25 yards — and even stepped in to handle a crucial punt in the closing minutes after Cameron Johnston was injured.

Johnston went down when an Atlanta player was blocked into him, actually resulting in a penalty on the Steelers. Pittsburgh was forced to punt again, with Boswell handling the duties.

He did just fine, getting off a 43-yard punt the Falcons weren't able to return.

"I can't say enough about Bos, not only in terms of him kicking the ball, but that punt was timely," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said.

Two plays later, Cousins threw his second interception to essentially seal the Pittsburgh victory.

Wilson was ruled out just before the game and worked the sideline as the inactive third quarterback. Pittsburgh kept the play-calling close to the vest under new coordinator Arthur Smith, who was fired in January after three seasons as Atlanta's head coach.

Smith certainly got a bit of payback against his former employer, while new Falcons coach Raheem Mor-

ris endured a tough start to a season of high expectations in Atlanta, which has endured six straight losing campaigns.

"We've got to have the ability to execute against anybody," Morris said. "When you play a team like this, the Pittsburgh Steelers with the defense they have, you know it's going to be a dirty game. But we had our opportunities."

Cousins hardly looked like a quarterback worthy of the four-year, \$180 million deal the Falcons gave him in free agency, including \$100 million in guaranteed money. He didn't play at all in the preseason while coming back from an Achilles injury that cut short his final season with Minnesota.

In his first game since Oct. 29, Cousins was just 16 of 26 for 155 yards with two interceptions, including a pick by Donte Jackson and 49-yard return with about 2 1/2 minutes that finished off any hopes of an Atlanta comeback.

In an appropriate finish, Cousins was sacked on the last play of the game, leading to one last roar from thousands of towel-waving Steelers fans who turned Mercedes-Benz Stadium into Pittsburgh South.

One week into the season, and Atlanta is again facing questions about its long-troubled quarterback position, which is sure to heat up even more with first-round pick Michael Penix Jr. sitting on the bench.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Justin Fields looks to pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Fields, the former first-rounder who was dumped by the Chicago Bears, was 17 of 23 for 156 yards. He fumbled his first snap of

the game — and quickly jumped on it — but didn't make the sort of major mistakes that plagued Cousins and the Falcons. □



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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy

Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with choco-



late sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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